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LETTER DATED 25 JUNE 1992 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to enclose the statement made by United States Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence S. Eagleburger at the Conference on the Reconstruction of Cambodia in Tokyo, 22 June 1992. I would be grateful if you would have this statement circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander F. WATSON
Acting Representative

Annex

Statement by Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence S. Eagleburger at the Conference on the Reconstruction of Cambodia, Tokyo, 22 June 1992

Last October in Paris, the international community boldly committed itself to alleviate the suffering of a people uniquely victimized by genocidal violence, war and foreign intervention - the people of Cambodia. Today, we meet again in Tokyo to reaffirm our commitment to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia, and to renew our determination to see the full and fair implementation of the political settlement of the Cambodian conflict, which was also signed in Paris.

That we have arrived at this moment of hope is testimony to the end of the cold war and the virtual end of the ideological rivalries which generated strife and misery throughout the world for the better part of half a century. However, we have learned in dealing successfully and unsuccessfully with regional conflicts in the post-cold war era that we can achieve peace only if we are willing to work for it - only if we are willing collectively and individually to assume responsibility for a just international order.

In this respect, it is important to note the leading role undertaken by the host of this Conference, the Government of Japan, in efforts to bring about a peaceful resolution of the Cambodian conflict and to improve the social and economic prospects of the Cambodian people. The United States applauds the willingness of Japan to assume important responsibilities in helping the world to meet the political and economic challenges of our times.

Today, the challenge we face in the case of a suffering Cambodia is daunting indeed. As the Secretary-General's appeal makes clear, Cambodia's developmental and human needs are enormous. The tragic events of the 1970s almost totally destroyed the nation's pool of professional talent; its infrastructure is in ruins. At the same time, the original consensus behind the Cambodian parties adherence to the Paris Accords is under attack and needs to be reaffirmed.

On the economic front, I would especially like to make it clear today that the United States is fully prepared to assist in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Cambodia. In addition to the over $25 million in humanitarian assistance we have already provided, I am pleased to announce that for this year and next we have put together an assistance package totalling $135 million:

- Nearly $90 million will be spent on humanitarian and development assistance - a chief focus of which will be on the rehabilitation of vital infrastructure, including projects to demine and rebuild rural roads.

These projects will help repatriate refugees and integrate rural areas into the national economy.

- We also plan to continue training and technical assistance programmes to foster the growth of a market-oriented economy in Cambodia, to collaborate in developing a nationwide primary health care system, and to continue programmes begun two years ago to meet the special needs of children and victims of war.

- We are already providing $20 million of the $36 million allocated to assist in the repatriation of displaced Cambodians in response to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)/World Food Programme (WFP) appeal.

- Finally, we are also contributing about $10 million in food for repatriated refugees and demobilized soliders. I cannot state specifically what my Government will be able to provide during fiscal year 1994 and beyond. What I can say, however, is that ours is a long-term commitment, and it is our intention to request assistance similar to 1993 levels, subject to political approval. We are also committed to paying our assessment for the cost of peace-keeping in Cambodia.

On the political front, it should surprise no one that we are encountering difficulties as implementation of the Paris Accords moves to Phase II. Making peace will require sacrifice, compromise and a willingness to assume risks on the part of everyone involved, both inside and outside Cambodia.

It is vitally important that all parties have confidence in the fairness and impartiality of the process agreed to in Paris. It is equally important that the people of Cambodia have confidence that the international community will not fold its tent at the first sign of difficulty, but instead will work to defend a fair process and to implement a fair agreement. I can assure you that for its part, the United States will not be tempted or intimidated into withdrawing from this process.

The United States supports the Supreme National Council and has full confidence in the ability of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) under Special Representative Akashi to implement the Paris Accords fairly and comprehensively. We would urge that the following measures be undertaken in the immediate period ahead:

- The United Nations should deploy all necessary civil administration personnel to Cambodia so that UNTAC can effectively supervise and control key ministries and administrative organs of all the parties; all aid should be designated to the Supreme National Council and overseen by UNTAC;

- All foreign trade and investment should be subject to Supreme National Council review and UNTAC oversight;

- UNTAC should operate freely throughout all of Cambodia to verify the departure of all foreign forces and to ensure full implementation of the agreement. Our goal should be to reassure those who fear the Accords will not work properly, and to prevent those who fear the Accords will work properly from undermining a process which has the firm and solemn backing of the international community. As far as the United States is concerned, we do not believe that efforts to halt this process should be cost-free to those involved, nor do we believe that we should encourage parties bent on sabotaging the Accords to entertain the prospect of success. The peace process can go forward in their absence.

Accordingly, the United States proposes that the assistance discussed in this Conference be committed immediately - through the Supreme National Council - to areas controlled by those Cambodian parties cooperating with UNTAC in implementing the peace accords - and only to those parties which are so cooperating. The United States also recommends that UNTAC accelerate deployment of all remaining peace-keeping forces to Cambodia, and is prepared to consider offering additional equipment and logistical support to such an effort.

For too long, the people of Cambodia have paid a horrible price for a war they did not start and which they cannot end by their own efforts alone. They desperately need the international community to redeem its promise of deliverance. Responsibility falls above all on the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to ensure that all parties to the conflict honour the commitments they have undertaken.

But all nations represented here today have a weighty responsibility, as well, for history will judge us harshly if we fail this great moral test. We know that the consequences of failure would be borne by the innocent people of Cambodia, but we must resolve to ensure that the saboteurs of peace would be the ones to suffer the most. In the final analysis, this may be our best hope for ensuring that peace will in fact prevail.